made there of during the last three years are indicated below:—

Year	Proposals received	Proposals sanctioned	Proposals disbursed
1995-96	33475	27576	28187
1996-97	27174	23884	24417
1997-98	15190	11013	15405

(c) and (d) Details of the recovery for these schemes and the comparative figures of other banks operating in West Bengal are given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Percentage of recovery	
	United Bank of India (UBI)	All banks in West Bengal including UBI
1995-96	35	23
1996-97	33.5	24.6
1997-98	23.26	22.6

Tariff on imports of Steel

74. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to raise tariff on imports of steel to help the sulking indigenous steel industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) In view of the ensuing budget, no details can be disclosed at this stage.

Harassment of Exporters

75. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Ministerr of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints of harassment of exporters by concerned Government authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the revenue collected from Export of various goods during the last three years ending 31st October, 1998; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for stoppage of this harassment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a), (b) and (d) The Government have been receivng representation and complaints from exporters and their associations relating to delay in clearance of export goods at the port of export, lower rates of duty drawback, delay in settlement of drawback claims and inconveniences and procedural complexities, lack of credit facilities etc., for the exporters. The problem of exporters are examined in Regional Advisory Committees of the Custom Houses, the open House organised by the Export Promotion Councils and remedial action is taken. To expedite decisions an "Export Promotion Board" has been set up under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary with secretaries of other Ministries as members which meets regularly to take decisions on individual issues. The Export Promotion Board takes decision on the problems of the exporters pertaining to all Ministries of the Government of India. The implementation of the decisions, in a time bound manner, is monitored by the said Export Promotion Board.

(c) The revenue collected from export of various goods during the last three years ending 31st October, 1998 is as under:—

	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99 Upto October
Net Exp. duty (Rs. Cr.)	0.71	2.21	1.39	1.69
Net Cess on exports (Rs. Cr.)	110.11	135.23	131.40	64.29
	110.82	137.44	132.79	65.98

Global bid for Disinvestment in PSUs

76. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any global bid has been called by Government for disinvestment of its stakes in PSUs; and

(b) if so, for how many PSUs such bids have been called and with what result?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) During

1998-99, ten million shares held by the Government in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited were sold as GDRs and an amount of about Rs. 785 crores has been realised.

Investment of Provident Fund in Equities of Private Companies

77. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to invest part of provident fund of employees in equities of private companies; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether trade unions have been consulted in this regard; if so, what is their opinion in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The pattern of investment to be followed by the non-Government provident funds has a provision enabling the Trusts, subject to their assessment of risk-return prospects, to invest upto 10% of the incremental accretions in private sector bonds/securities, which have an investment grade rating from at least two credit rating agencies. It is at the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees and there is no compulsion whatsoever.

एस्सार समूह पर बकाया ऋण एवं अग्रिम राशि

78. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) "एस्सार" समूह पर आज तक की स्थिति के अनुसार सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के विभिन्न वित्तीय संस्थानों के बकाया ऋणों एवं अग्रिम राशियों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) इस राशि पर कितने प्रतिशत ब्याज वसूल किया जा रहा है;

(ग) "एस्सार" समूह द्वारा अन्य देशों के साथ किये जा रहे कारोबार का अद्यतन ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) क्या सरकार द्वारा समय-समय पर इस कारोबार की समीक्षा की जा रही है?

वित्त मंत्रालय बैंकिंग, राजस्व तथा बीमा में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कादम्बूर एम॰ आर॰ जनार्दनन): (क) और (ख) सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की वित्तीय संस्थाओं द्वारा एस्सार ग्रुप को दिए गये ऋणों एवं अग्रिम राशि की बकाया राशि निम्नलिखित है:-

(करोड़ रुपये)

संस्थाएं	राशि
आई डी बी आई	164.73 (दिनांक 1.2.1999 की स्थिति के अनुसार)
आई एफसी आई	1169.58 (दिनांक 10.2.1999 की स्थिति के अनुसार)
आई सी आई सी आई	836.26 (दिनांक 31.3.1998 की स्थिति के अनुसार)
आई आई बी आई	7.00 (दिनांक 31.12.1998 की स्थिति के अनुसार)

वित्तीय संस्थाओं द्वारा रुपया ऋणों पर ब्याज 16 प्रतिशत और 20 प्रतिशत (ब्याज दर को छोड़कर) के बीच प्रभावित की जाती है और विदेशी मुद्रा ऋण पर यह -1.5 प्रतिशत लाइबौर तथा +3.7 प्रतिशत लाइबौर होती है।

(ख) और (घ) जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और यथा उपलब्ध जानकारी सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

वित्तीय घाटे का मुकाबला करने के लिए राजसहायता में कटौती

79. **श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह:**
श्री कपिल सिब्बल:

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि: